

## AMENDMENTS

*Please amend the claims as follows without prejudice to future prosecution, without disclaimer of any subject matter, and without presumption that the actions are taken for any reason related to patentability:*

1. (Previously and Currently Amended) An isolated, soluble, non-fibrillar amyloid  $\beta$  oligomeric structure comprising from about 13 to about 24 amyloid  $\beta$ 1-42 proteins and free of amyloid  $\beta$ 1-40 protein.

2. (Previously Amended) An isolated, oligomeric structure according to claim 1 wherein said oligomeric structure comprises 16-mer, 20-mer, or 24-mer aggregates of amyloid  $\beta$  proteins.

3. An isolated oligomeric structure according to claim 1 wherein said oligomeric structure has a molecular weight of from about 36 kD to about 108 kD as determined by non-denaturing gel electrophoresis.

4.-10. (Previously Cancelled)

11. An isolated oligomeric structure according to claim 1 wherein said oligomeric structure comprises globules of dimensions of from about 6.5 nm to about 11.0 nm as measured by atomic force microscopy.

12.-44. (Previously Cancelled)

45. (Previously Added) The oligomeric structure according to claim 1, wherein the structure does not contain an exogenously added crosslinking agent.

46. (Previously Added) The oligomeric structure according to claim 1, wherein the structure is neurotoxic.